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FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM SECRETARY.

BY SEPARATE WIRE I AM SENDING YOU A REPORT PREPARED BY MERCHANT ON LAST NIGHT'S CONVERSATION WITH SELWYN LLOYD. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM SELWYN'S RATHER NERVOUS MANNER AND QUITE LONG-WINDED EXPOSITION OF THE BRITISH POSITION THAT HE MUST HAVE FOUND MACMILLAN VERY MUCH AGITATED AND TERRIBLY ANXIOUS TO IMPRESS US WITH THE NECESSITY OF QUICK ACTION LEADING TO A SUMMIT. AFTER PAST NIGHT'S TALK AND AFTER RECEIVING THE FIRST WIRE FROM MOSCOW ON THE RESULTS OF THE NIXON-KHRUSHCHEV TALK IT IS MY OWN FEELING NIXON'S ADVICE TO DELAY AN ANSWER TO KHRUSHCHEV ON A PROPOSED VISIT UNTIL GROMYKO HAS BEEN PROBED FURTHER HERE IS SOUND. I AM HOPING THAT BY TONIGHT WE MAY BE BETTER INFORMED ON GROMYKO'S ATTITUDE BUT I AM NOT TOO OPTIMISTIC SINCE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WE HAVE BEEN STONE-WALLED AND UNABLE ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE HAD ANY NEW INSTRUCTIONS OR NOT.

IN MY LAST MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT, I REQUESTED PERMISSION GIVE COUVE DE MURVILLE ROUGH OUTLINES SITUATION REGARDING KHRUSHCHEV VISIT AND HOPE THIS MAY BE FORTHCOMING SOON SINCE I AM AFRAID A LEAK FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE WOULD MAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP VERY DIFFICULT.

HERTER

JGG/21

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